(b) if so, the reasons for the slow progress; and

(c) by when the work of widening on the entire sector is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The work of Jalandhar Bypass on NH-1 and Jalandhar to Bhogpuron NH-1A has already been completed. The remaining stretch having a length of 84.45 km of Jatandhar-Pathankot Section including Chakki Bridge on NH-1A has been approved under NHDP Phase II. The Letter of Acceptance for civil work has been issued to the contractor in July 2005.

(c) The works on NHDP Phase-ll are targetted to be completed by 2008.

Forged Smart Cards

3238. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that forged Smart Cards of 1 KB memory instead of 4 KB memory as prescribed by Central Government guidelines are being circulated by manufacturer M/s. Smart Chip Limited throughout the country in connivance with Regional Transport Offices;

(b) whether the said company have violated the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take against the above firm and officials in order to curb the issue of forged Smart Cards throughout the country, especially in the State of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Central Government has amended the relevant provisions of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to lay down the specifications for the microprocessor chip based smart card, which is of minimum 4 KB memory capacity and must conform to specifications of International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)/lnternationai Electro Technical Commission (IETC). Central Government's role is limited to advising the States to take

appropriate action as and when such cases are reported. It is the responsibility of State Governments to ensure that the smart cards issued by their authorities or vendors selected by them comply with the prescribed rules.

(c) Action on violation; if any, by the vendors has to be taken by the State Governments themselves.

Stilted expressway on Hosur Road

3239. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the work on the 9.5 km. stilted expressway on Hosur Road would be commenced by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI);

(b) whether it is a fact that IT companies situated in the area were opposing the project; and

(c) the features of this project, and which are the implementing agencies of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) It is proposed to construct an elevated highway of length 9.985 km on Bangalore-Hosur Section of NH-7 from km 8.765 to km 18.750. It is also proposed to improve ground level highway to 6-lane. The work will be done on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Action has been taken to award the work. The date of commencement and implementing agency will be known after award of work.

NHAI has not faced any opposition from IT companies against the project.

Road cum Railway Bridge over Brahmaputra River

3240. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years that would be required to complete the construction fo Bogibil Road cum Railway Bridge over Brahmaputra rivier in Assam;